

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:00 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair; Mr. Jamie Heaney; Mrs. Marjorie Levesque; and Mr. Douglas Wilkey.

Absent: Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair; Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk; and Mr. Michael Buddemeyer

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mrs. Patti Cofield

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 4-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:01 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Ms. Wedge reported that an Executive Session was held at 6:00 PM, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Mr. Heaney and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 4-0.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**: Dr. Lusi commended 6th Grade students Mary Lehane, Isabel Regine, and Nicholas Krol for their participation in the Peer Tutoring Program at Portsmouth Middle School.

Dr. Lusi reported that Melville School was vandalized over the weekend, causing approximately \$15,700 in damage. An itemized listing was forwarded to the Police Department and to the School Department's insurer. She also reported that Dr. Olson attended a meeting at the Officer's Club in Newport regarding the next steps for soil abatement surrounding where the Navy water tower was located. The Navy will be removing the contaminated soil and will dispose of it at a suitable facility. There will be a public meeting next month at the school at which the Navy will present on the timeline for doing this work.

Dr. Lusi announced that the School Department has moved to a computerized system called "AESOP" for entering absences and calling substitute teachers. This is a month-to-month agreement, and the cost for the number of staff we have in the system is \$775 per month for 10 months per year. This will be a savings of approximately \$6,000 in overtime costs over the course of the school year. It also provides the convenience of being able to call or log-in at any time.

- a) **Teaching and Learning**: Asst. Supt. Jermain thanked Trish Martins, Leslie Smith, and Sarah Kraeger Psaras for their presentation yesterday to the K-4 teachers as part of their professional development series on the new Special Education regulations regarding response to intervention. She also reported that this morning the teachers were refreshing their skills in the DIBELS area, with the assistance of Gail Darmody. Tomorrow after school, the K-4 teachers will be reviewing reading strategies. She thanked the teachers

who opened their classrooms to other teachers so they could view their teaching strategies. She also reported that she and Dr. Lusi observed the following lab classrooms this week: Lisa Bagwell, science; Keri Jardine and Bethany Lako, math; and Amy Trudeau and Bethany Lako in ELA.

The NECAP Assessment report was distributed to the Committee for preview reading. Assistant Superintendent Jermain will give a Powerpoint presentation at a future meeting.

b) **Finance and Operations:** No report.

c) **High School Liaison, Marissa Mello:** Absent.

3. **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

a) **PHS Science Fair.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Heaney to commend the following students for their achievement in the Portsmouth High School Science Fair. So voted 4-0.

Freshmen:

1st Place: Rachel Yates-Berg, *The effect of music through headphones on the human ear.*

2nd Place: Daniel Beck, *The effect of CCA treated wood on arsenic levels in the soil*

3rd Place: Brianna Hoftun, *How the color of light affects a plant's growth*

Honorable Mention: Vicky Friedrichs, *Flammability rate of clothing fabrics*

Madison Humphrey, *Two factors that affect mold*

Sophomores:

1st Place: Alex Monteiro, *Caffeine vs. Resting Heart Rate*

2nd Place: Michael Young, *Bacteria in schools*

3rd Place: Emily Labbe, *Are there traces of lead in Melville Elementary School?*

Honorable mention: Lalitha Ganesan, *Restriction of mold growth*

Rebecca Cochran, *The color of sun protection*

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held March 13, 2007. This item was removed from the agenda and will be put other next agenda.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

a) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2007 spring season, as presented."

b) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewal.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee rescinds the non-renewal of Teacher 40-2/27/07, as presented."

- c) **Appt. – IT Director, Districtwide.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-3/27/07, to the position of districtwide Integrated Technology Director, effective immediately, with transition into the roles and responsibilities to take place at the discretion of the Superintendent."
- d) **Appt. – General School Aide, Melville School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-3/27/07, to the position of General School Aide at Melville School, effective immediately."

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Heaney to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 4-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following coaching appointments: Rosie Sosnowski, Assistant Coach of Girls' Track; Shaun Horgan, Assistant Coach of Boys' Track; Jeff McGuirl, Head Coach of Girls' Lacrosse; and Stephanie Lividini, Assistant Coach of Softball. She also announced the appointment of Rosemary Muller as IT Director, and Chung Morrissey as General School Aide at Melville.

6. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **Approval – 2007-08 School Calendar.** The calendar was distributed to the public for comment and will be brought back on a future agenda for approval. Dr. Lusi explained that we are awaiting word from the Department of Education regarding potential changes.
- b) **Discussion/Action – Implications of Caroulo Action on 2006-07 and 2007-08 Budgets.** Dr. Lusi distributed a spreadsheet on the implications of the Caroulo Action on the 2006-07 and 2007-08 budgets. She explained that at last night's Town Council meeting, they voted a bottom line of \$32,178,738. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve an adjusted FY'06-07 budget of \$32,178,738, as appropriated by the Town Council on March 26, 2007. So voted 4-0.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance:** Dr. Lusi announced that the next Finance Subcommittee meeting will take place this Thursday, March 29th, at 6:00 PM, to discuss the FY'08 request and potential reductions to that request. She also announced that a special School Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 3rd, to vote on the FY'08 budget, which is due to the Town on April 9th.
- b) **Policy:** Mrs. Levesque reported that the Policy Subcommittee met and generated a policy on Web Mail Guidelines. It will be on a future agenda as a first reading.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):** No report.

d) **Fundraising:** No report.

e) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** No report.

A motion was made by Mr. Heaney and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk